

Old Blacksmith Shop
(Ft. Bennett, South Dakota

HABS No. SD-8

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Missouri River Basin Historical Studies
Region Two Office
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebraska

Old Blacksmith Shop
Ft. Bennett, South Dakota
PIERRE VIC.

HABS No. SD 8

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1- PIERRE.

Owner- Mr. Herbert Thomas, Pierre, South Dakota

Date of Erection- 1880

Architect- Anonymous

Builder- Probably Mr. Thomas' father, since he was Post Blacksmith at Fort Bennett for many years.

Present Condition- Fair. The present owner has kept the roof tight, and has replaced a few logs that had rotted away. The collection of old branding irons and other equipment used in the blacksmith shop eight years ago is very complete and should be preserved at the State Historical Society. At one side of the old barracks remnant there is an Army issue heating stove that should be picked up and deposited at the Historical Society. It bears the stamp of the Rock Island Arsenal, at Rock Island, Illinois.

Number of Stories- One story.

Materials of Construction- Walls of cottonwood logs; floors dirt; roof made of tree limbs and twigs, with sod spread over that.

Other Existing Records- Mr. Thomas has many old photographs; letter books; and account books that were left on the premises when the Army abandoned Fort Bennett in 1891. He was born at the Post about that time, and got these things from his father.

Work planned and accomplished as a phase of the Missouri River Basin historical salvage program by the History Division, Region Two Office, National Park Service, Omaha, Nebraska.

Project supervised by Regional
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Field work performed under
the direction of Architect
John A. Bryan, 1952